

Message Text

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12

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15

COA-02 INT-08 COME-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01 AGR-20 CG-00

EB-11 ACDA-19 AEC-11 DOTE-00 FMC-04 JUSE-00 NSF-04

SCI-06 EPA-04 CEQ-02 RSR-01 /200 W

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R EQWPPZ AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3917

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USEC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USUN NEW YORK 362

USMISSION NATO

USOECD PARIS 502

USMISSION GENEVA

CINCLANT

COMICEDEFOR

NISRA KEFLAVIK

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PBOR IC UN

SUBJECT: FISHERIES DISPUTE: OPPOSITION PARTY ADOPTS 200 MILE
LIMIT GOAL

1. OPPOSITION INDEPENDENCE PARTY (CONSERVATIVE), ICELAND'S
LARGEST POLITICAL PARTY, HAS OFFICIALLY ADOPTED POLICY OF PRESSING
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FOR 200-MILE FISHERIES LIMIT. THIS POLICY, DESIGNED TO OUTMANEUVER GOVERNMENT PARTIES, HAS BEEN PUSHED INCREASINGLY IN RECENT WEEKS BY IP LEADERS AND PARTY'S DAILY ORGAN MORGUNBLADID.

2. AT A MEETING OF THE IP CENTRAL COMMITTEE AND THE PARTY ALTHING GROUP AUGUST 30 FOLLOWING RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED:

"THE ALTHING GROUP AND THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE INDEPENDENCE PARTY RESOLVE: IT HAS BEEN THE DECLARED POLICY OF THE INDEPENDENCE PARTY THAT ICELAND'S FISHERIES JURISDICTION IS TO COVER THE ENTIRE CONTINENTAL SHELF TO ITS OUTERMOST LIMITS INCLUDING ALL FISHING GROUNDS AROUND THE COUNTRY. THE EXTENSION TO 50-MILES IS A STEP IN THAT DIRECTION.

"AT THE LATEST PARTY CONVENTION IN MAY OF 1973 THIS CONTINENTAL SHELF POLICY WAS REAFFIRMED AND APPROVED, I.E., THAT ICELAND'S DELEGATES TO THE LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE BE INSTRUCTED TO WORK VIGOROUSLY FOR THE FULL RECOGNITION BY THE COUNTRIES OF THE WORLD OF THE RIGHT OF COASTAL STATES TO GOVERN AND UTILIZE THE BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES OF THE SEA ABOVE THE CONTINENTAL SHELF UP TO 200 MILES.

"AT THE PREPARATORY MEETINGS FOR THE UN LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE THAT HAVE JUST BEEN CONCLUDED, IT HAS APPEARED THAT A 200-MILE ECONOMIC JURISDICTION ENJOYS THE SUPPORT OF THE MAJORITY OF THE PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES.

"WITH RESPECT TO THE ABOVE THE ALTHING GROUP AND THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE INDEPENDENCE PARTY THINK THAT THERE IS A NECESSITY FOR NEW DECISIONS ON BEHALF OF THE ICELANDERS ON THE EXTENT OF FISHERIES JURISDICTION BEFORE THE LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE ITSELF STARTS AND THEY STATE THEIR FULL SUPPORT FOR A 200-MILE FISHERIES JURISDICTION BASED ON A MEDIAN LINE BETWEEN COUNTRIES WHERE THE DISTANCE IS LESS THAN 400 MILES.

".THE ALTHING GROUP AND THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE CONSIDER IT PROPER THAT THE FISHERIES JURISDICTION BE EXTENDED TO 100 MILES NO LATER THAN BEFORE THE END OF 1974.

"NOW AS BEFORE THE INDEPENDENCE PARTY DESIRES NATIONAL UNITY ON THE FISHERY LIMITS ISSUE AND IT WILL SEEK THE SUPPORT OF THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ALTHING ON THE EXTENSION TO 200 MILES."

3. EVER SINCE GOI'S DECISION TO EXTEND FISHERIES LIMITS TO 50 MILES OPPOSITION IP HAS BEEN PLACED IN TENUOUS "ME TOO" POSITION BECAUSE OF FAILURE TO TAKE EXTENSION ACTION DURING ITS 12 YEARS IN POWER. ONLY VIABLE ALTERNATIVE TO RECAPTURE PUBLIC SUPPORT HAS BEEN TO OUTPROMISE GOI AND ATTEMPT TO PORTRAY IT

AS CAPTIVE OF 50-MILE DECISION. GROUND FOR SUCH CLAIM IS SHAKY, SINCE GOI HAS NEVER RESTRICTED ITSELF TO 50-MILE LIMIT. GOI HAS BEEN ABLE TO CITE ALTHING RESOLUTION MADE WHILE IN OPPOSITION IN EARLY 1971 URGING IP-LED GOVERNMENT TO COOPERATE IN INTERNATIONAL SPHERE WITH NATIONS WHICH "WANT TO GO FURTHER AND BASE EXTENT OF FISHERIES JURISDICTION ON GEOGRAPHICAL, GEOLOGICAL, BIOLOGICAL, SOCIOLOGICAL AND ECONOMIC CONDITIONS AND NEEDS OF INHABITANTS OF COASTAL STATES."

4. RECENTLY THOUGH GOI PREOCCUPATION WITH DIFFICULTIES OF ENFORCING 50-MILE LIMIT AND INCREASING INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT FOR 200-MILE ECONOMIC ZONE WHICH HAS EMERGED DURING LOS PREPARATORY CONFERENCES HAS GIVEN IP LEADERSHIP NEW IMPETUS. POSSIBILITY THAT GOI MAY BE CONCERNED OVER EFFECTS OF IP INITIATIVE IN PRESENT EMOTIONAL CLIMATE WAS INDICATED BY RECENT EDITORIAL IN PROGRESSIVE PARTY DALY TIMINN. EDITORIAL, WRITTEN BY SENIOR EDITOR AND CHAIRMAN OF ALTHING FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE THORARINN THORARINSSON WHO WAS PRESENT AT LATEST LOS MEETING IN GENEVA, EMPHASIZED EXTENT OF SUPPORT FOR 200-MILE LIMIT AND REMINDED READERS THAT 50 MILES WAS "ONLY A STEP AND NOT THE FINAL AIM".

5. IP, AS OPPOSITION LEADER WITH NO RESPONSIBILITY FOR ENFORCEMENT OF 50-MILE LIMIT OR NEGOTIATIONS WITH BRITISH AND GERMANS, CAN MAKE UNLIMITED PROMISES. FISHERIES LIMIT ISSUE REMAINS PARAMOUNT ON ICELANDIC POLITICAL SCENE. IF IP SUCCEEDS IN SEIZING INITIATIVE FROM GOVERNMENT IN THIS AREA, IT REPRESENTS PARTY'S BEST HOPE OF RETURNING TO POWER IN 1975 ELECTIONS. THUS, THERE IS LITTLE DOUBT THAT ICELAND WILL BE AMONG 200-MILE ECONOMIC ZONE COUNTRIES AT LOS CONFERENCE, REGARDLESS OF GOVERNMENT. IRVING

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